The Government of India had welcomed the release of hostages, but reiterated our call for the restoration of a democratic and constitutional government within the framework of Fiji's Constitution of 1997. This continues to be our position.

Imposition of Sanctions by USA

1311. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the areas where USA had imposed sanctions since the nuclear tests;

(b) the sanctions withdrawn before and after the visit of President of USA;

(c) the details of the sanctions which have not been withdrawn; and

(d) the steps being taken to get them withdrawn?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Under the provisions of its domestic law, the United States announced on 13th May, 1998 unilateral restrictions on assistance under its Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, except for humanitarian assistance and food and other agricultural commodities; grant of credit, credit guarantee, or other financial assistance by any department or agency of the US Government, including assistance from the US EXIM Bank, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) and the US Trade and Development Agency (TDA); extension of any loan for financial or technical assistance by any International Financial Institutions, except for humanitarian purposes; US Banks from making loans to Government of India, except for loans or credits for purchasing food and other agricultural commodities; defence-related sales and military financing under its Arms Export Control Act; export of any item on the United States Munition List; military cooperation and training programmes; exports of dual use items controlled for Non-Proliferation and Missile Technology reasons under the Export Administration Rules (EAR). In addition, the US published on 13th November, 1998 a list of over 200 Indian Government organisations, research institutions, public sector units and private companies—the so called the Entities List—which were subject to tighter export restrictions.

(b) and (c) The United States had lifted a number of unilateral restrictions before the visit of the US President. In addition, 51 organisations were removed from the so-called Entities List. Restrictions continue to be maintained on

lending for non-humanitarian purposes to India by International Financial Institutions; defence-related sales as well as military financing under the Arms Export Control Act; export of items on the US Munition List; export of dual use items and technology; and, tighter export controls on the remaining organisations on the so-called Entities List.

(d) Government uses every opportunity to convey to the US Government that all unilateral restrictions against India are unjustified and counter-productive and should be completely lifted.

Failure of foreign policy on Sri Lanka

†1312. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have failed to observe a clear policy about Sri Lanka;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have to face the pressure in taking the decision of clear policy about Sri Lanka under the pressure of some of its alliance parties in Government; and

(c) whether some other countries would not get a chance to intervene in Sri Lanka due to the present policy of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Government's policy has been formulated in the national interest after very careful consideration of all the factors involved.

Passport offices in Orissa and Rajasthan

1313. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Passport offices located in Rajasthan and Orissa as at present and the number of new offices proposed to be opened (State-wise) during 2000-2001;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.